

Message Text

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ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 EB-11 PA-04 L-03 SCI-06 USIA-15

RSC-01 DRC-01 /053 W

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R 110846Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9690

INFO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, SENV, SCUL, RP

SUBJECT: PHILIPPINE PARTICIPATION EXPO '74

REF: A. STATE 237419; B. MANILA 12962

1. EXPO '74 PRESIDENT KING COLE DURING HIS MANILA STAY CALLED UPON SECRETARY OF TRADE QUIAZON, BOARD OF INVESTMENTS CHAIRMAN AND CONCURRENTLY SECRETARY OF INDUSTRY PATERNO, ASSISTANT SECRETARY BARRERA OF DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, AND INFORMATION SECRETARY TATAD.

2. ALTHOUGH QUIAZON MEETING ABBREVIATED BECAUSE HE HAD JUST BEEN CALLED TO PALACE, COLE ABLE TO REVIEW STATUS OF EXPO WITH ACTING HEAD OF FAIRS AND EXPOSITIONS OFFICE LIM. DEPARTMENT OF TRADE RECOMMENDATION FOR PARTICIPATION, DRAFTED BY LIM AND ACCOMPANIED BY CABLE FROM AMBASSADOR ROMUALDEZ TO FOREIGN AFFAIRS RECOMMENDING PARTICIPATION, WAS ALREADY WITH PRESIDENTIAL STAFF.

3. DEPARTMENT OF TRADE LIAISON OFFICER CALLED EMBASSY SUBSEQUENTLY, AFTER CONFERRING WITH LIM, TO REPORT THAT PRESIDENTIAL STAFF HAD JUST ENDORSED TRADE RECOMMENDATION AND FORWARDED STAFF MEMO TO PRESIDENT RECOMMENDING PARTICIPATION. MEMO IN PRESIDENTIAL READING ROOM AWAITING HIS

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PERUSAL, AND DECISION WAS ANTICIPATED BY DECEMBER 3 OR 4.

4. ON DECEMBER 7 EMBASSY WAS INFORMED THAT PRESIDENT HAS NOT YET READ MEMO, AND THAT IN MEANTIME OTHER MATERIALS HAVE ACCUMULATED IN HIS READING ROOM. DECISION IS NOW NOT EXPECTED FOR TWOHWWGBS. SECRETARY QUIASON, HOWEVER, TOLD COMMERCIAL ATTACHE DECEMBER 6 THAT HE EXPECTED FAVORABLE DECISION SOON.

5. WHILE PRESIDENT GENUINELY BUSY WITH OIL CRISIS AND OTHER PREOCCUPATIONS, AND WHILE DEPARTMENT OF TRADE HAS BEGUN TO MAKE PREPARATIONS IN ANTICIPATION OF FAVORABLE DECISION, CONTINUING DELAY IN SECURING PRESIDENTIAL DECISION IS MATTER OF CONCERN. BOI CHAIRMAN PATERNO DURING COLE CALL OBSERVED THAT IN FIRST GO-ROUND ESTIMATED TRADE RETURNS HAD NOT SEEMED SUFFICIENT TO JUSTIFY PHILIPPINE PARTICIPATION, DESPITE DEPARTMENT OF TRADE FAVORABLE RECOMMENDATION. HE, AS WELL AS INFORMATION SECRETARY TATAD, WHO EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR PHILIPPINE PARTICIPATION, QUICKLY GRASPED NON-TRADE SIGNIFICANCE OF EXPO PARTICIPATION AS IT WAS DESCRIBED BY COLE, BOTH STATED TO COLE THEY WOULD FOLLOW UP WITH QUIAZON. EMBASSY WILL DISCUSS MATTER AGAIN WITH PATERNO AT EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY.

6. IF MARCOS APPROVES PARTICIPATION, BELIEVE DEPARTMENT OF TRADE PREPARED TO MOVE QUICKLY ON SETTING UP PHILIPPINE EXHIBITION.
SULLIVAN

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